

But God Clave An Hollow Place (Judges 15:14-20)

God Interrupts our desperation.

Proposition: Every child of God can find a well spring of reviving water in their most desperate hour by gleaning out three instructions from this text.

- I. Remain in the Conflict of your Desperation
 - A. The Enemy in the Conflict
 - B. The Enablement of the Conflict
 - C. The Instrument of the Conflict
- II. Render up the Cry of your Desperation
 - A. A Conditional Cry
 - B. A Commending Cry
 - C. A Critical Cry
 - D. A Challenging Cry
- III. Rely on the Claving in your Desperation
 - A. The Source of the Claving
 - B. The Spring of the Claving
 - C. The Submitting to the Claving
 - D. The Summary of the Claving

But God Clave an Hollow Place Judges 15:14-20

During the days of sailing merchant ships one such vessel was stranded off the coast of South America. Weeks went by without the slightest movement of the wind. The ship was helpless and couldn't move. The sailors were dying of thirst when another ship drifted close enough to read their frantic signs for help. "Let down your buckets," was the reply. They then found water suitable for drinking right beneath their keel. Although adrift at sea, they were surrounded by the fresh water current that came from the mighty Amazon River. In their time of desperate

I. Remain in the Conflict of Your Desperation
Now this whole scene of desperation has its roots in a conflict in a battle. A Battle with the camps of God and his people. Don't know if you realized it but we're in a battle to an intense conflict not

A. The Enemy in the Conflict (149) As a Judge in Israel, Sampson had no misgivings about taking the fight to the enemies of God's people the Philistines. Sampson tied 300 fox tails together and burned their fields. Philistines showed up at Israel's door looking for revenge. They are no match for Philistines and turn Sampson over to and fight on. There is an enemy. World, flesh, devil there desire is to malign and destroy the Kingdom of God.

B. The Enablement of the Conflict (140) -

We know that Sampson is the Superman of Old Testament. But this power was not innate. Be careful to note that the Bible is careful to note this power came from the Spirit of God. I believe that ^{Sampson} looked more like a mild mannered reporter than a hulking out incredible hulk. His strength came from the Spirit of God! Eph 3:16 Rom 8:11 Our enablement for the battle is no different than Sampson's.

C. The Instrument of the Conflict (Vs 15-16)

I want you to give careful attention to the instrument Sampson used in the conflict. The jawbone of a donkey. Yes that's right the jawbone of a dead donkey. The donkey in law was a cursed animal and also a dead animal is here. Yet

this unclean thing was used to defeat the enemy. The cross of Jesus Christ a place of cursing ^{(3) Deut 21} a place of death is the instrument of our conflict ⁽¹⁴¹⁾

11. Render up the Cry of Your Desperation

After such an amazing victory we see the humanity of Sampson exposed. I don't care how spirit filled you are, our bodies and minds grow weary ^{and needy}

A. A Conditional Cry ⁽¹⁸²⁾ Sampson in his weakness begins to relay his condition to the Lord! His condition is that of being sore of thirst. Sore = vehemently, wholly thirsty. I remember riding on back of garbage truck how thirsty I would get and weak I would be. So we fight this battle and labor for the Lord ^{and needy} we can be can

1) ...time of desperation their help came from an unlikely and unexpected place. Even more miraculous and unexpected is the source of Sampson's reviving waters in our text today. God interrupted Sampson's desperation in a most unlikely manner. We, too, like Sampson come to those moments in life where because of the fierce conflict we have waged we become desperate for the reviving, life giving waters that only come from God. I am convinced that every child of God can find a well spring of reviving water in their most desperate hour by gleaning out three instructions from this text.

2) Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

3) Deuteronomy 21:23 ...he that is hanged is accursed of God...

4) Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for

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1) **Isaiah 40:29, 31** He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength... **Isaiah 40:31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

B. A Commending Cry - (18b) Then hast given... Sampson knew right well where this great power and this great victory had come from. He didn't say Lord look at all the work I'll do for you. Sampson is merely the instrument. When we cry out our need let us commend God for his great work in us. He gets all ^{glory}.

C. A Critical Cry - (18c) Shall I die... this is pretty serious. Sampson is at the point of death. The need in his life could not be more serious than it is at that moment it was a life or death situation. Would to God that we would come to the point of desperation as Sampson. Oh God if you do not meet this need I ^{to die} die.

D. A Challenging Cry - (18d) Sampson is rendering up to God a challenge. God you have used me in this great conflict to bring victory and glory to your name and now are you going to let me die of thirst and fall into their hands. God have you brought me all this way to just leave me here to die. Is this the end Lord? Have you gifted me and grown me just to leave ^{me here to die?}

III. Rely on the Claiming in Your Desperation
No! Upon this Cry of Desperation, God interrupts the situation. God didn't lead his people out of Egypt to let them die of thirst in the wilderness. ¹ Is 40:31

A. Source of the Claiming - (Vs 19a) This restoring drink that revived a dying servant of God was not from the hand of Sampson or the Israelites but its source was from God himself

In your times of physical and spiritual desperation the miraculous help needed will come from God. It may come through some unusual means.

B. The Spring of the Claiming - Unusual to say the least. The water was coming out of the Jaw bone. The instrument that he had been using to fight the enemy with was also the instrument of reviving refreshment. What an application. Let the Cross at the Cross! That cross which I fight the enemy with.

C. The Submitting to the Claiming - 196

Now remember where he got this bone and what he did with it. He got it from a dead donkey, and He smashed a 1000 heads with it, can't tell me that thing wasn't nasty and the last place you'd want to drink water from. Yet he drank His help came from an unexpected place. Let like the story.

D. The Summary of the Claiming - (196-200) And he revived "God strengthened his man, God met his need in the middle of his desperation. Vs 20 indicates that he judged Israel 20 years. No God didn't bring him all that way to just let him die.

God had a plan and interrupted his desperation.

IV. Closing - Oh there is a great application for the Lost. If you are here healer by sm + shame the is everlasting living waters emanating from the cross of Christ. Are you desperate for reviving waters, are you exhausted in the battle

- 1) ...some unusual means and from some unexpected odd places, but be assured it is from God. Like the old preached I heard say, "That's not odd, brother that's God!"
- 2) ...enemy with is all so my source of strength and reviving. The cross where I faced my sin and shame, and yet where love and life abounds, where rivers of living water emanate. That's where reviving comes from a fresh reality of the Cross of Jesus Christ!
- 3) A man fell over a cliff and, as he tumbled down the sheer drop, managed to grab on to a scrubby bush growing from the side of the rock. Terrified, he hung in space, his life flashing before him. In desperation, he shouted toward heaven, 'Is there anyone up there?' To his astonished delight, a voice floated down: 'I am the Lord God, and I am here.' 'What should I do?' called the man. The voice replied, 'Let go of the branch and, with my protection, you will float harmlessly down to the beach below.' The man glanced under his feet to the jagged rocks at the foot of the cliff, hundreds of feet below. He gulped, and looked back toward heaven. 'Well... is there anyone else up there?' Don't turn up your nose to the help that God offers you! It is in the simplicity of the cross where we find oceans of reviving waters.
- 4) Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.